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VOLUNTEERING ON MIDTERM CAMPAIGNS

Several Ole Miss students who volunteered on midterm election campaigns this past election cycle reflect on their experiences.

SEE PAGE 4

Q&A WITH ARTS & CULTURE: THE BROOK AND THE BLUFF

Assistant arts & culture editor Eliza Noe sat down with this four-piece band made up of Birmingham natives ahead of their show at Proud Larry's last night. They talked about their music, their influences and the strangeness of life on the road.

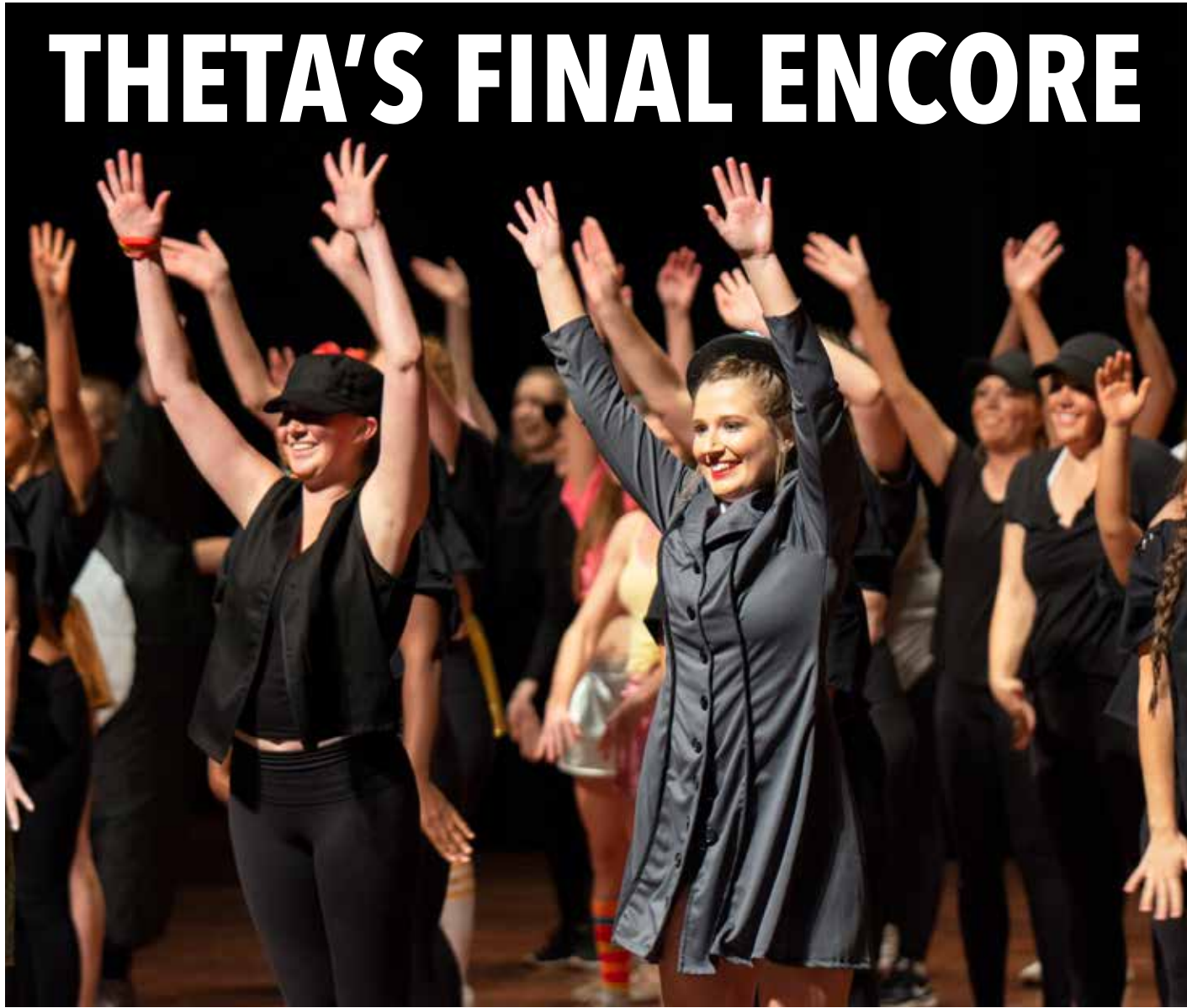
SEE PAGE 8



CROSS COUNTRY PLAYERS, COACHES HONORED BY SEC

After leading Ole Miss to its first cross country SEC Championship, head coach Ryan Vanhoy was recognized as the SEC Coach of the Year on Wednesday.

SEE PAGE 12



Members of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority perform a Mary Poppins themed dance routine during their last Theta Encore on Wednesday night.

LAYSEN LANDRUM
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The final Ole Miss Theta Encore show raised \$66,313 for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) association Wednesday night at the Gertrude Ford Center.

Delta Gamma sorority took home first place with its production “Where are they now?” which explored the evolution of various pop stars’ careers. DG won the overall

competition by raising \$13,034 for CASA.

“The performance was amazing,” Delta Gamma member Anna Brock said. “We got to see all our hard work pay off and we had so much fun.”

CASA is a national organization that supports and trains court-appointed volunteer advocates for abused/neglected children. Their mission is to help every child in the U.S. “be safe, have a permanent home and

the opportunity to thrive.”

The future of Theta Encore is uncertain following the recent announcement of the closure of Kappa Alpha Theta’s UM chapter. According to the show’s emcee, Johanna Keosseian, a senior member of Kappa Alpha Theta, said there is talk of continuing the program in years to come through an “encore club.”

SEE PAGE 7 FOR MORE PHOTOS

Coach Yo ready for first Rebel season

ALEXIS RHODEN
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Coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin, affectionately known as Coach Yo, plans on bringing her intense work ethic with her as the ninth head coach of Ole Miss Women’s Basketball. The role model, mother, wife, daughter and new Rebel head coach has been on this mission for a while now.

“I came from the bottom and worked my way up. All I know is work... I’m not expecting handouts.”

Coach Yo began her career 13 years ago at a small school named Frank Phillips College in Borger, Texas. On her journey to Ole Miss, she held numerous coaching positions, working as an assistant coach for Arkansas Pine-Bluff, Portland, Pittsburgh and Clemson before becoming the head coach at Jacksonville University. However, she said her coaching dream finally came true when she got the offer from Ole Miss.

The veteran coach said the culture at Ole Miss has been

SEE **COACH YO** PAGE 10

NPHC houses absent on campus since 2007 displacement

MCKENZIE RICHMOND
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Three National Pan-Hellenic Council sorority chapters briefly inhabited houses on campus in and before 2007 but haven’t had representation on Sorority Row since the Residential College was built.

The Theta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha, Tau Eta Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta and Lambda Sigma Chapter of Delta Sigma

Theta sororities lived on Sorority Row in three former on-campus faculty houses, which stood where the east residential parking lot currently is near Silver Pond.

After approximately 70 years of being on campus, those faculty members’ living spaces were relocated off campus in 2007 to a space called Community Green, an affordable housing development on Molly Barr Road for UM faculty and staff.

Assistant Provost and Associate

Professor of Mathematics Donald R. Cole said planning for the Residential College began in the late 2000s.

Cole said it took time to secure funding and begin construction on the new Residential College, and then-Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Thomas Wallace suggested three of the 21 empty faculty houses could be used for NPHC sororities until Residential College construction began.

“Administratively, this was



Silver Pond and several parking lots currently occupy the land on which NPHC sorority houses once stood.

SEE **NPHC** PAGE 4

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The Life Cycle of a Vote

An In-Depth Look at the Democratic Process of the United States of America Since 1776

As long as the race is close, the winner can be picked by the leading party. The cycle will restart next election

...Where they are promptly burned in a large pit

1. The voter casts their choice for Congressman

2. The vote is altered by the Republicans machine to suit their interests

3. The vote is altered by Democrat machine to suit their interests

4. Then it is altered by GRU, then MI6, then GSG9, then the CIA to suit their various interests

5. Finally, all the votes are collected at each State's Capitol...

COLUMN

Stop giving religious speakers a platform



MADISON BICKERT
THEDMOPINION@GMAIL.COM

Freedom of speech is crucial to our society in order to maintain democracy in the United States. But at what point does this freedom to spread one's beliefs turn into hate speech? Recently, there have been hateful comments and remarks being hurled at students by men who stand in the Circle and tell people they are going to hell.

You've probably seen this group in person, heard a friend talk about them or seen them featured on someone's social media story.

These people come by several times throughout the school year to spread their religious beliefs. They set up in the Circle or by Fulton Chapel and start telling people who walk by they are going to hell.

There is a fine line between talking about your religion in a free and public space and verbally abusing someone for their race, sexual orientation or gender.

I often catch myself wanting to shout hateful comments back at them. I've memorized various Bible verses that I could use to negate their arguments. On my way to class, I've rehearsed various scenarios in my head of ways to dispute whatever sexist argument that they had to say. But none of these things seemed to quite reach the level of anger I've recently felt.

Instead of rehearsing verses or scenarios, however, I decided to start asking myself questions.

Why do these men keep coming back, year after year to our campus? Why are there UPD officers on standby, waiting to

break up any conflict that might occur? Why are there so many social media accounts that feature these men sharing their message of hate? It wasn't until I was so angry that these men were allowed to spread so much hate on campus that I began to realize why they keep coming back. It's because students keep giving these men a platform.

I'll admit it. I've been guilty in the past of laughing while they go on a rant about their religious beliefs. I've even been pointed at by one of the men and told that "whores don't make it to heaven."

When students stop in the Circle to laugh at or argue with them, it gives these men exactly what they want. They want validation that they are reaching someone, anyone, with their messages of hate and fear. I understand that some people are doing this in an attempt to make fun of these men or to belittle their arguments. By stopping to listen to the speeches of these men and featuring them on social media accounts, though, people are still spreading their

hateful content across campus.

Whether you believe in the messages or not, stopping and acknowledging their existence is essentially giving them a reason to come back again and again. All I ask is that students who don't believe in these messages think twice about featuring these men on their social medias. Every time you stop and record them for Snapchat or Instagram stories, you give them an even bigger platform to spread these ideals and beliefs to even more students.

Madison Bickert is a senior international studies and German major from Corinth.

CORRECTION:

Larry Little and Sarah Liddy advanced to a runoff election for District 18, Place One Chancery Court Judge on Tuesday.

THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN

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Letters should be typed, double-spaced and no longer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for clarity, space or libel. Third-party letters and those bearing pseudonyms, pen names or "name withheld" will not be published. Publication is limited to one letter per individual per calendar month.

Letters should include phone and email contact information so that editors can verify authenticity. Letters from students should include grade classification and major; letters from faculty and staff should include title and the college, school or department where the person is employed.

MISSISSIPPI press ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NEWSPAPER

COLUMN

Take down the plaque and the Confederate statue

RYAN OEHRLI
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The contextualization plaque in front of our school’s Confederate monument is an interesting commentary on university policy.

The plaque discusses the history of such monuments erected across the South in the 20th century and even gives a nod to the fact that they were almost always funded by groups pushing the Lost Cause “ideology.” The Lost Cause, the plaque explains, “claimed that the Confederacy had been established to defend states’ rights and that slavery was not the principal cause of the Civil War.” It explains that the university’s monument was put up by “residents of Oxford and Lafayette County” and that it was a rallying point for white supremacists when James Meredith enrolled in 1962. It also says the Confederacy’s defeat meant “freedom for millions of people.

The plaque’s last paragraph is peculiar. After explaining the statue’s racist origins, its purpose of buttressing racist ideology and its co-option by racists, it reads as follows: “This historic statue is a reminder of the univer-

sity’s divisive past. Today, the University of Mississippi draws from that past a continuing commitment to open its hallowed halls to all who seek truth, knowledge, and wisdom.”

If we give promoters of this contextualization the benefit of the doubt, two conclusions can be reached from this paragraph: either they believe in the Lost Cause to some degree and therefore consider the monument justified, or they wish to use a statue of a Confederate soldier to reflect on the greatest evil in American history.

The former isn’t plausible. Surely Chancellor Vitter — a son of the South and the head of a university — who has been key to contextualization knows that the Civil War was fought over slavery. One can rest assured that he, like anyone else, has access to the fact that Mississippi Gov. John Pettus lamented impending black Republican politics and free people’s morals shortly after Abraham Lincoln’s election in 1860.

Chancellor Vitter and other higher-ups should know that secession commissioners from the Confederate states traveled to the Upper South to encourage their neighbors

to secede, too. Mississippi commissioner William Harris, in a typical statement, reminded his Georgia audience that “our fathers made this a government for the white man.”

And one certainly hopes that he knows that Mississippi’s own Declaration of Secession wasted no time laying out the state’s motivation, which was “thoroughly identified with slavery — the greatest material interest of the world.” Furthermore, it said, “none but the black race can bear exposure to the tropical sun,” which justified this system.

University officials can’t believe the Civil War wasn’t about slavery, then. If they

did, they wouldn’t be fit to run a university.

That leaves the second possibility. Do they want the monument to serve as a painful, brooding reminder of slavery and its defenders?

If so, a suggestion: ditch the contextualization plaque and, instead, prop up two more statues. On the left of Johnny Reb can be a wealthy plantation owner, sending him into battle, and on the right, a slave in tattered rags, tilling a field.

Of course the idea is as stupid as it is cruel. Why? Because statues aren’t supposed to remind us of divisive pasts. Statues are built for heroes. Are our heroes are men who died fighting for slavery, re-

gardless of how it is phrased by revisionists?

The answer hasn’t changed since the flag came down. The statue, antithetical to the values its plaque claims to defend, should be removed. Replace it with something honoring real heroes who exemplify liberty, justice and the triumph of the individual over systems of unjust power.

Ryan Oehrli is a junior political science and history major from Washington, North Carolina. He’s the president of the Anti-Confederate Coalition, a student organization that advocates for the removal of Confederate-honoring monuments.

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Student campaign volunteers reflect on experiences

MADDIE MCGEE
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Student campaign volunteers spent months doing campaign work that culminated on Election Day yesterday. On campus, several students worked as volunteers on campaigns to elect specific candidates in Mississippi and to support voting in the state.

Alec Ashby, treasurer of Ole Miss College Democrats, worked on Democratic candidate Jeremiah Anderson’s Congressional campaign. Anderson lost to Republican Steven Palazzo for the U.S. House of Representatives 4th Congressional District race. Ashby became involved with Anderson’s campaign because he was running against Ashby’s local congressman.

“I reached out to him on Twitter, and he brought me on,” Ashby said. “I’ve always wanted to work in politics, but I hate campaigning. However, I knew that I had to start somewhere if I wanted political experience.”

Ashby said that working on the campaign ended up being much different than he expected.

“I expected to work in a field office with a laptop all day, but it’s a lot more flexible than that,” he said. “If you have a few hours a week, you can be involved in a Congressional campaign. I’d say the most rewarding part is watching other people take my candidate as seriously as I do and knowing that our work, even if we ultimately fail, has at least changed the conversation around really important issues.”

Ashby said social media has pushed students to be more politically involved.

“It’s not because candidates are actually good at social media, but because young people are holding each other accountable in a way our parents couldn’t,” he said.

In addition to students volunteering with specific politicians,

some students and community members have instead aligned themselves with entire political parties.

Kloe Lloyd has worked for several campaigns and various political organizations, getting her start when she was 13 years old. During the 2018 midterm elections, she worked with the Mississippi Republican party to endorse Republican candidates.

Lloyd said her love of politics began at a young age.

“I live in a politically divided household,” she said. “I heard my parents go back and forth during the 2008 election. Something about it inspired me and made me want to form my own beliefs, and from there, I fell in love with the process of government.”

Lloyd said she has worked on many different aspects of campaigns.

“I started out knocking on doors with a candidate’s t-shirt on and my school skirt after my last class ended,” she said. “I’ve done phone banking, waved signs and worked at the courthouse on Election Day to bring the ballot bags in.”

She said she hopes her political involvement will be beneficial for her professional future.

“It has definitely helped me become more confident in myself,” she said. “It has definitely made me connections. I came from a family that didn’t have a big name, so I have made a name for myself. It has helped me become a stronger and more independent person.”

From a more local standpoint, Mary Blessey, a master’s of fine arts in documentary expression graduate student, has volunteered with Lafayette County Democrats as part of the “Blue Wave” campaign.

“With ‘Blue Wave,’ we’ve just been knocking on doors, giving information, letting people know they can get transportation to the polls if they need to which is



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

A woman campaigning for Larry Little holds a sign outside of the Lafayette County Health Department during Election Day for this year’s midterm elections on Tuesday.

really important,” she said.

Blessey is no stranger to political canvassing.

“I got started with this back in college. I went to Millsaps College in Jackson and my first presidential election that I ever got to vote in was 2008,” she said. “I canvassed for Obama in Jackson and went knocking door to door registering people to vote as part of Young Democrats.”

Blessey said people need to vote in order to see change in Mississippi.

“It never ceases to amaze me how many people don’t vote, how many people just sit out,” she said. “If you look at the number of eligible voters in Mississippi in past elections who stayed home and then you consider the margins that these elections are decided by, if people didn’t stay home and if they would actually go out and vote, it could change the political landscape of Mississippi. We just have to get them out there.”

Lloyd noted the importance of sharing political beliefs, regardless of affiliation. She said



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Oxford residents wait in line to vote at the Lafayette Civic Center on Tuesday.

although she is a conservative, she considers herself to be an open-minded and understanding person.

“I think we tend to label ourselves as who is Democrat and who is Republican, and we think that we can’t find common ground. We have to remember that we are all human beings

who have feelings and ideas,” Lloyd said. “I’ve heard a lot of backlash toward things I believe in, but I’ve done my part to know what I believe in and stay strong in those views. I just wish our campus attitude didn’t shut down political diversity but worked to find our common ground.”

NPHC *continued from page 1*

a bittersweet move,” Cole said. “Sweet because it gave an extremely significant presence to these groups; bitter because they looked like slum houses in the midst of the other towering sorority houses.”

Sumayia Young, President of the Theta Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. said a common place is a necessity for every Greek organization to help unify the chapter and to provide a space for all members to meet.

“We do not have a space to call our own,” Young said. “We have to find a place to hold chapter. We have to find space to do step practice. My chapter is so big that no place can hold us.”

According to Young, it’s

more difficult for an NPHC organization than it is for an Interfraternity Council or College Panhellenic organization to raise money for a house due to the smaller chapter sizes, less expensive dues and the limited alumni base for donations.

“If you look at IFC and (National Panhellenic Council), they all have big houses and big chapter numbers. Historically, our (organizations) do not produce more than 170 people per chapter,” Young said. “We need a great alumni base and the numbers to sustain.”

Last week, the university’s Epsilon Zeta chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta announced it would not be returning to campus in the spring 2019 semester. UM officials have yet to announce plans for the future of the large house on the corner of Rebel Drive and Northgate Drive.

“When we found out the news about Theta we thought this may be our opening, but then we have to deal with the dues and fees that go along with the house,” Young said.

When the NPHC sororities had to move out of the houses, sorority members and the community were upset, and those feelings still linger in some people’s minds, Cole said.

Some Northgate apartment property was offered to the groups, but Cole said the sorority chapters declined the offer because the properties were not as prominent or as versatile as the space they had formerly occupied on campus.

“(The houses) were symbolic to the presence of people of color on campus, and at the time they were the only symbols,” Cole said. “Moreover, their mere location made them visible in the public’s

eye. So even if you were not a member of one of these groups but a person of color, then you appreciated their presence.”

Arthur E. Doctor, director of the Office of Fraternal Leadership and Learning, said there’s a perception that Greek organizations have a presence on campus if they have a house and said “that belief is the farthest thing from the truth.”

Doctor said NPHC chapters are extremely engaged and involved within the community and consistently host impactful programming, ranging from career development workshops, educational forums and social events that allow the community to see each chapter in a positive light.

“I believe the NPHC chapters at the university could benefit from their peers taking notice of the hard work each (chapter) does to demonstrate the impact they

make on campus and within the community,” Doctor said. “Yes, they may not have a physical house on campus, but these organizations have created a sense of belonging and a home away from home, not only for their members but for thousands of students here at the University of Mississippi.”

Young said her chapter still has hopes for a future with an on-campus house and believes it would have a positive impact on the University of Mississippi.

“You look at history: James Meredith, Omega Psi Phi and Alpha Kappa Alpha,” Young said, referring to the university’s first black student and the first black Greek organizations on campus. “It would be a great progression of overall inclusiveness of the University of Mississippi.”

Lecture analyzes Faulkner’s Native American characters

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The J.D. Williams Library held a lecture on “Faulkner’s Native American World: Fiction and Reality,” hosted on Wednesday afternoon appropriately in the Faulkner Room.

University students, professors and community members attended the lecture led by Robbie Ethridge, a professor of anthropology, and Annette Trefzer, a professor of American literature and literature theory.

“The question is ‘How often and how much did Faulkner write about Native Americans?’” Trefzer said. “And the answer is, for about a twenty year span from 1930 to 1950, Faulkner’s imagination was concerned with crafting Native American characters.”

Trefzer and Ethridge analyzed Faulkner’s use of Native American characters in his collection, “The Portable Faulkner,” published in 1946.

“Faulkner used an interesting mix of fact and fiction in his

works,” Ethridge said. “He drew on the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes for his works and he did so claiming that ‘both nations passed near my home.’ This is a half-truth; both tribes did live in Mississippi but neither in the

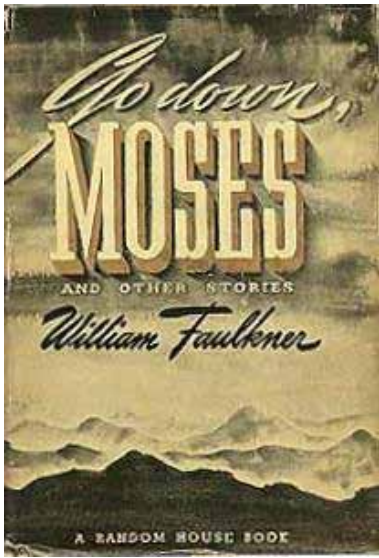


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Oxford area.”

The discussion continued from presence of Native Americans in Faulkner’s works to their symbolism, specifically present in his 1942 book, “Go Down, Moses.”

“Faulkner’s representation of Native Americans evolved from a declination model present in his work ‘Red Leaves’ to the ‘noble savage’ portrayal of the character known as Sam Fathers,” Ethridge said.” And

“Faulkner did create a Southern space for non-native cultures to take root in literature and American culture.”

After the lecture, Ethridge and Trefzer allowed the audience to ask questions,

of the authors I am analyzing ... so I was keen to learn more,” said Laura Wilson, a graduate writing instructor and doctoral candidate for English.

Another audience member, Donald Kartiganer, the Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies Emeritus from 1991-2001, said he was encouraged by the support shown to his former colleagues.

“I wanted to support them and hear about recent research,” Kartiganer said.

The lecture marks the third event the university has produced in honor of 2018’s Native American History Month. Upcoming events include a student mixer at 11 a.m. Thursday in Stewart Hall 129, a viewing and discussion of the film *Te Ata* from 3 to 5 p.m. that afternoon in Hume Hall 203, a lecture by Jeff Washburn at 11 a.m. on Nov. 14 in Barnard Observatory and a dialogue series facilitated by Michael Fedoroff, the tribal deputy director and liaison for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from 5 to 6 p.m. on Nov. 28 in Bryant Hall 111.

“I am working my Ph.D about the effects of soil in 20th century literature, and Faulkner is one of the authors I am analyzing ... so I was keen to learn more.”

Laura Wilson
Graduate writing instructor and a doctoral candidate for English

ultimately, the death of Sam Fathers, a Native American, is equated with the death of American wilderness.”

Both Ethridge and Trefzer noted the racist connotations of this symbolism, however, the latter pointed out that

which ranged from the Native American naming of characters and geography in Faulkner’s literature to the racial overtones present in his work.

“I am working my Ph.D about the effects of soil in 20th century literature, and Faulkner is one



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THETA ENCORE 2018



PHOTOS: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Members of Delta Gamma sorority perform a “Where are they now?” themed dance routine on Wednesday night to win Theta Encore. The event benefits Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, and seeks to ensure that abused and neglected children get the help they need in school and with their personal and social lives. This year’s Theta Encore successfully raised over \$66,000 for the organization. Occurring just days after the announcement that the UM chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta will be removed from campus, Theta chapter adviser Erin Smith announced last night that the university will potentially be creating a club to continue the philanthropy work of Theta Encore.



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Local writers participate in National Novel Writing Month

MADDIE MCGEE
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Writers around the nation have embarked on a month-long journey to pen a 50,000 word novel as part of National Novel Writing Month. Nicknamed “NaNoWriMo,” the month-long event in November sets markers for participants to write 1,667 words each day in order to hit their goal. Members of the LOU community have long participated in NaNoWriMo, with write-in events being hosted on campus and in Oxford throughout the month.

Alex Watson, a research and instruction librarian, has participated in National Novel Writing Month for over a decade. He has written 15 novels through the program and is now one of the municipal liaisons of the organization in Mississippi. For Watson, the novel writing challenge has had benefits of both the literary and the personal sort.

“Writing an idea out for 50,000 words is a great way to see if it has legs or not, and if not, can give you some ideas for how to refine it,” he said. “As a municipal liaison, I feel like I’m giving back to the community. I think my wife would agree as well — I met her through NaNoWriMo.”

Watson said the structure of the month-long novel challenge benefits participants.

“Many people want to write a novel, but it’s an easy thing to put off,” Watson said. “By setting a firm deadline to shoot for, NaNoWriMo helps you shake off procrastination and get drafting. The first draft may not be ready to publish, but you can always revise it or expand it later. As I often say to our participants, you can revise a bad novel, but you can’t revise no novel.”

While some think of writing as a solitary task, participants are encouraged to keep in contact to support each other through the process.

Local writers have an incentive to complete the challenge, as it may lead to a published novel.

“An editor at Foundations Press, a local Mississippi publishing house, has offered to review any completed manuscripts we come up with for two years in a row now — not a publishing guarantee by any means, but a leg-up for Mississippi writers trying to grow our state’s literary culture,” Watson said.



PHOTO COURTESY: NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH

Christina Streeter, library facilities specialist and head of the Idea Lab, has participated for the past three years. While she’s not sure exactly how this year’s novel will pan out, she said she is hoping to pen a genre-bending novel that blends fable and mystery.

She said that, some years, she has been too busy with work or personal responsibilities to reach the 50,000 word goal but that she has never regretted participating.

“Despite challenges, I’ve always come away with material I may never have written had I not set the goal to participate that month,” she said.

Streeter said developing a writing schedule proves to be the hardest, but most helpful, aspect of the month long challenge.

“There is no one policing your word count but you,” she said. “It’s about holding yourself accountable and making time in your life for writing. It’s always my grandest hope that I can continue to make writing a habit all year round, not just during the month of November.”

Streeter said she hopes to write 1,700 words each day and will set weekly goals to keep herself on track throughout the month.

Novelist and English professor Matt Bondurant has not participated in NaNoWriMo, but he said he thinks writing 50,000 words in a month is feasible.

“It is definitely possible to write 50,000 words in a month, and lots of people do it,” he said. “Many novelists have personal daily goals of

1,000 words a day, all the time. The challenge is, of course, to be consistent and do it every day.”

However, Bondurant noted that most participants have a lot of work to do after the month ends.

“The event is basically about getting words on the page — first draft-type writing — with the assumption that plenty of revision would be done after,” he said. “I don’t think many reasonable writers think that they will fully complete a novel in a month.”

Bondurant said the hardest part of writing a novel is what comes after the month is over — the revision stage.

“Anybody can spit out chunks of words all day, but that doesn’t make it a novel or anything that anyone would want to read,” he

said. “Managing the structure, adjusting the narrative arc, developing characters, fine tuning the prose are all aspects of revision that can be extremely difficult, and that is why most novels fail. The writer cannot or will not revise properly to create a balanced, compelling and nuanced work of art.”

With several novels under his belt, Bondurant advises writers to prepare for lots of revisions, to continue writing even after the month ends and to keep in mind that there is no formula for novel-writing.

“Each book is a world unto itself, and the act of writing, revision and reading is an act of discovery,” he said. “Every novelist I know confronts each new book like an alien species. Nobody really knows what they are doing.”

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the greatest part of her move from Jacksonville to Oxford, making the transition almost seamless.

“The people have been great. The way they have embraced my family and team... it’s a dream come true,” Coach Yo said. “Sometimes I have to pinch myself.”

Coach Yo believes she has grown exponentially since her first coaching gig at Frank Phillips College back in 2005. After all of her different stops, Coach Yo said she is ready to take on the challenge of being a head coach at the Division I level.

“The reason I think Ole Miss fits me is because I have coached at every level.” Coach Yo said. “I’ve coached junior college level, HBCU, ACC, Big East Conference... I’ve been fortunate to take something from each of those areas, and it made me who I am now. (There’s) not a day that goes by that I am not appreciative (of) the opportunity.”

Along with coaching at the college level, Coach Yo also coaches for the Bahamian National Team, giving her invaluable experience she can bring to Oxford, which will come in handy as she adjusts to coaching in the SEC against coaches she once looked up to.



PHOTO: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Women’s basketball Coach Yolett McPhee-McCuin watches the team from the sidelines during last week’s exhibition game against Lemoyne-Owen. Ole Miss won the game 73-45.

“(There’s) so much we have to get good at,” Coach Yo said. “My experience from coaching a national team has allowed me to come up with unique ideas to get things going quickly in a short amount of time.”

This year, the team is full of new players, and Coach Yo said she is excited to have a new team that gets along. She said great personalities will make chemistry building that much easier for her and the

new staff.

“People who come in and watch us practice have been excited about our energy. We focus on things we can control, playing hard, understanding what the game plan is and following it,” Coach Yo said. “They are so fun. We spend a lot of time together off the court.”

Her main goal in Oxford is to see the women compete, and that starts with assembling a good staff that will

take the team to the next level. Rebels fans may be familiar with one member of her coaching staff — Arminite Price, former Rebel great and 3rd overall selection in the 2007 WNBA Draft.

“The SEC is the No. 1 conference in the country...they have so much talent,” Coach Yo said, comparing SEC to her past conference, the Atlantic Sun. “If we didn’t win the (conference) champion-

ship, we didn’t have a chance (at postseason play). Now, I have the opportunity where we just need to be in the top seven or eight (in the conference) on a good year, and that’s a reasonable goal.”

Coach Yo may not need to win the conference each year now that she’s coaching in the SEC, but she understands that doesn’t mean there is room to slack off, attributing the team’s overall attitude to its level of success.

“When you see (the team) on the floor, they are going to look like they want to be there,” Coach Yo said. “They will give 100 percent,” Coach Yo said.

To meet her standards, Coach Yo pushes her team with tough drills to make sure they can be the best possible versions of themselves every day. With nine newcomers on the team coinciding with Coach Yo’s arrival, the 2018-19 season will be a challenge for the Rebels. However, she isn’t concerned with immediate results this year, instead focusing on shorter, more manageable goals and building a culture.

“When you’re taking over a program, building a culture is important,” Coach Yo said. “You have to fight for it. If that means removing a player for violating team rules (or) upholding the standards, in that initial year you must fight for the culture.”

Ole Miss’ Olejniczak looking for bigger role under Davis

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It’s time to get familiar with the name Dominik Olejniczak.

Olejniczak, Ole Miss men’s basketball’s 7-foot center from Torun, Poland, is poised to make a size 15 leap in his second year in Oxford after transferring from Drake University in 2016.

“He’s played really well,” first-year head coach Kermit Davis said. “In our two scrimmages (Murray State and Fayetteville State) he’s put up some really impressive numbers.”

In eighteen minutes against Fayetteville State, Olejniczak poured in 15 points, six rebounds and three blocks on 7-11 shooting from the field.

While the caliber of competition from Fayetteville State isn’t comparable to what the Rebels will face once the regular season begins on Saturday, his 15 points would have been good for his second highest scoring game of his Ole Miss career.

Coach Davis’ offensive system emphasizes sharing the ball, taking shots later in the shot clock and getting post

touches to Olejniczak and power forward Bruce Stevens.

Last season, Olejniczak and Stevens couldn’t share the floor, mainly for defensive reasons. However, Stevens has cut weight in the offseason and Olejniczak has put some pounds on.

“Bruce is a way better player than he was last year, as far as being able to guard the four,” Olejniczak said. “That’s what really was holding back the matchup of having us in the game at the same time.”

Olejniczak looks noticeably larger since Ole Miss’ last game against South Carolina in the SEC Tournament. He’s since gained 17 pounds in the offseason and is up to a current weight of 262 pounds. Olejniczak’s sturdy frame has allowed him to grow as both a post presence and a rim protector.

“I’m not going to jump over the defender, so I’m working lower to the ground,” Olejniczak said. “When I’m stronger, I’m able to hold my position, get rebounds, set better screens and be able to push guys on the low post.”

Davis emphasized repeatedly in the preseason that Stevens will step out to the

three point line more often this season, where he shot 28 percent on only 1.6 attempts per game last season.

“I feel like Bruce can really pass and shoot,” Olejniczak said. “So I have way more space under the basket. We have way more options to score.”

But as the lane opens up and defenses are hopefully forced to focus in on the seven footer on the block, Stevens’ shots should come from much higher percentage opportunities.

An issue with former head coach Andy Kennedy’s offense was that the guards had nearly free rein to take whatever shot they saw fit. The hope from the newly minted coaching staff is that as opportunities on the perimeter arise, Olejniczak and Stevens will be free to work an inside-out game that will open up easier shots for the likes of Terence Davis, Breein Tyree and Devontae Schuler.

“I love how (Coach Kermit Davis) tells the guys during practices to look down low,” Olejniczak said. “Because I think he knows if we’re going to get looks down low, the perimeter will be more open.”



FILE PHOTO: BILLY SCHUERMAN

Dominik Olejniczak shoots around a Jackrabbit defender during the game against South Dakota State last season.

Rebel volleyball fails to finish LSU in five-set affair

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LSU came out on top against Ole Miss volleyball in a five set affair on Wednesday in Baton Rouge. The loss drops Ole Miss below .500 on the year with a record of 13-15 (3-11). The Rebels jumped out to an early 6-1 lead in the first set, and appeared in control for most of it. After extending their lead to six points at 16-10, LSU went on a 5-0 run to tighten the game and force the Rebels into a timeout. Ole Miss would never lose its lead, however, and held off the Tigers to win the set 25-23.

Junior outside hitter Emily Stroup ended the set with six kills and one dig. Freshman middle blocker Aubrey Sultemeier recorded five kills. Sophomore setter Lauren Bars added 14 assists and two kills. The second set, much like the first, was controlled by Ole Miss early, but two back-breaking runs from LSU carried the Tigers to take the set. After the Rebels took an early 8-5 lead, LSU went on its first long run of the set, scoring six straight to take an 11-8 lead. This was followed by a 9-1 Ole Miss run to take a five point lead. LSU had the last laugh, however, going on a 10-1 run to bring it to



Emily Stroup spikes the ball during the game versus Georgia earlier this season. Ole Miss lost the game 0-3.

18-22. The Rebels couldn't gain any ground after that, eventually dropping the set 22-25. After a fairly close start, the Rebels dominated the third set, opening it up with a 17-8 lead. The Tigers attempted to battle back, putting together a 10-5 run before the Rebels managed to close out the set 25-19 with a short 3-1 run. Stroup recorded six more kills in the third set, bringing her total to an impressive 21 through three sets. Sultemeier recorded one

assist in the set to go along with three kills. Sophomore middle blocker Bayleigh Scott recorded one kill and two blocks. Bars had 14 more assists in the set, also recording two kills and a block. The fourth set was hotly contested all the way to the end, with the two teams trading points most of the way. The set saw 10 ties and 5 lead changes, and the largest lead held by either team was just three. After the teams battled to a 20-20 tie, LSU went on a 3-0 run to go up 23-20. This was followed

by a 3-0 run by the Rebs, fueled by back-to-back service aces from Bars to tie it again at 23-23. After an LSU timeout, two powerful kills by the Tigers finished it off and forced a decisive fifth set. Stroup recorded seven more kills in the set, setting herself up for yet another 30-kill match going into the fifth set. Sultemeier recorded two kills and a block, and Sophomore outside hitter Leah Mulkey recorded two kills and two blocks. In the fifth and final set, the

teams went back-and-forth in what ended up being the most competitive set of the night. The fifth set had 9 ties and 4 lead changes and was a proper way to cap off a thrilling season series between two evenly matched teams. Neither team was able to pull away, with ties at 8-8, 10-10, 11-11, 12-12, 13-13 and 14-14. After Ole Miss unsuccessfully challenged that an LSU player did not touch a ball that landed out of bounds, the Tigers came away with back-to-back kills to win the set 16-14 and clinch the match. Stroup recorded four kills in the set, giving her a total of 32 for the match, a new career and program record. This was her third 30-kill match of the season, and she showed yet again just how dominant she can be in close matches like this. Sultemeier had three kills in the final set, giving her a career-high 14 on the night on a .480 clip. She also finished the match with three blocks, two digs and an assist. Senior Caroline Adams also recorded a career-high for digs, posting 33 on the night. Scott contributed one kill and two blocks in the final set. Bars recorded eight assists in the set, finishing with an impressive 57 in the match. She also contributed 13 digs, giving her a double-double.



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**EQUAL HOUSING
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SEC honors Vanhoy, Bethmann after championship run

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In his sixth season at the helm of Ole Miss Cross Country, head coach Ryan Vanhoy was named the SEC Coach of the Year on Wednesday. Freshman Cade Bethmann was also recognized by the conference, earning the SEC Freshman of the Year award.

Vanhoy and Bethmann earned the awards after leading Ole Miss to its first-ever cross country or track conference championship, outlasting Arkansas 36-44 and snapping the Razorbacks' eight-year run of dominance. In winning the SEC Championship, Ole Miss also broke through as the first team other than Arkansas or Alabama to win the cross country conference tournament since Tennessee in 1990.

"Amongst ourselves, over the last couple of months, we started to realize that if things go our way we could pull it off," Vanhoy told Olemisssports.com after the win. "We had a couple of guys step up big. I think this group certainly in terms of training and consistency has been one of our best years overall."

Vanhoy becomes the first Ole



PHOTO COURTESY: PETRE THOMAS | OLE MISS ATHLETICS

Members of the Men's Cross Country team celebrate after winning their first SEC championship in school history in October.

Miss Men's or Women's Cross Country head coach to win the award in school history, while Bethmann becomes the Rebels' third recipient of the SEC Freshman of the Year award, joining Barnabas Kirui (2006) and Sean Tobin (2014).

"I think this group certainly in terms of training and consistency has been one of our best years overall," Vanhoy said following the SEC Tournament. "It is the feeling amongst our

group that we will go in and compete really hard together."

In addition to Vanhoy and Bethmann's honors, Ole Miss had multiple runners named to All-SEC teams. Bethmann was named to the All-SEC First-Team, joined by Waleed Suliman and Mario Garcia Romo. Farah Abdulkarim and Mark Robertson made the second-team. Both Bethmann and Garcia Romo made the SEC All-Freshman team.

"I think we have been overlooked this year," Vanhoy told Olemisssports.com. "There has been a lot of preseason hype around a couple of other teams in our conference, and I think we flew under the radar."

Ole Miss Women's Cross Country was recognized as well, with Clio Ozanne-Jaques making the All-SEC Second Team and Lisa Vogelgesang making the All-Freshman squad.

With the conference champi-

onship behind them, the Rebels are preparing for a road trip to Tallahassee for the NCAA South Regional this weekend, hosted by Florida State University.

"Our men will likely enter the (south) regional as the favorite," Vanhoy said. "However, you still have to run the race for nationals, and you still have to show up and perform. Obviously, there is no easy route to get to the NCAAAs."



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